

2013 BUDGET LEGISLATION FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
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Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to animal regulations; changing shelter fees and regulations concerning the municipal spay and neuter clinic, and enhancing the Director's authority relating to pet adoptions, and amending Sections 9.25.030, 9.25.045, 9.25.081, 9.26.050 and 9.26.060 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary of the Legislation:

This legislation enhances the Director of Finance and Administrative Services' or his or her designee's authority to increase adoption fees for certain exotic animals, allows caretakers of free roaming /feral community cats to utilize spay and neuter services at the Shelter's clinic by exempting them from the current pet licensing requirement, and sets a new adoption fee for small animals and rabbits. The proposed Council Bill also establishes a live animal trapping permit fee and sets a new fee for the sterilization of privately owned rabbits. The funds received by adoption of this Council Bill will help to further cover the Seattle Animal Shelter's operations.

Background:

The Seattle Municipal Code currently sets a flat adoption fee of \$5.00 for animals such as exotic birds, reptiles, and other animal species that may be of considerable value on the open market. Allowing the Director to establish an adoption fee close to the market rate for exotic species will help prevent the likelihood of speculators who may try to resell the animal for a profit and helps to further ensure that these animals are adopted into life-long, loving homes. Establishing a new adoption fee of \$15.00 for small animals and increasing the fee for rabbits to \$40.00 sends a better policy message to potential adopters that these animals are of value.

The proposed Council Bill exempts free roaming community cats from the current requirement in the Seattle Municipal Code, which requires persons who utilize services at the Shelter's spay and neuter clinic to purchase a pet license. As free roaming community cats are considered not to be owned by any one person and are often feral in nature, the proposed Council Bill will help to reduce the number of free roaming community cats born each year by making it more cost effective for Seattle residents to access shelter services.

Domestic rabbits are the third most common pet in homes and animal shelters. The proposed Council Bill sets a fee for the sterilization of privately owned rabbits, which is the average fee charged by local humane societies. Providing this service to Seattle residents will help to reduce the number of unwanted rabbits born each year.

Finally, Humane Law Enforcement Officers investigate and deploy numerous humane live animal traps each year. This legislation institutes a new fee to help defray the City's cost of administering the program, regardless of whether a homeowner uses their own humane trap or one provided by the City. The fee shall not apply in cases where the Director determines an animal must be trapped in order to protect the peace, health, or safety of the public.

Please check one of the following:

☐ This legislation does not have any financial implications.

☒ This legislation has financial implications.

Summary of Changes to Revenue Generated Specifically from this Legislation:

	Revenue Source	2013 Proposed	2014 Endorsed
Total Fees and Charges Resulting From Passage of This Ordinance	Rabbit Surgery Fees¹ Per SMC 9.26.060	\$7,500	\$7,500
	Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Fees² Per SMC 9.26.060	\$15,000	\$15,000
	Small Pet Adoption Fees³ Per SMC 9.26.050	\$3,000	\$3,000
	Animal Trapping Permit Fees⁴ Per SMC 9.26.050	\$5,000	\$5,000

Revenue Change Notes:

¹ Additional surgery fees for rabbits in 2013 & 2014 provided by SMC 9.26.060 is based upon 100 rabbit spay and neuter surgeries to be completed annually. The proposed fee of \$75.00 is a new fee and is comparable to the fee charged by the other local humane society. This fee will increase the services provided by the Seattle Animal Shelter Spay & Neuter Clinic and will allow the Clinic to provide this service both locally and at a reasonable price for Seattle residents.

² Additional surgery fees for feral cats in 2013 & 2014 provided by SMC 9.26.060 is based upon 175 feral cat spay and neuter surgeries to be completed annually. The fee for cat surgeries was last changed in 2010. Although this legislation does not change the surgery fees for cats, it increases the capacity of the Clinic to provide this service by making it more cost effective for caretakers of free roaming community cats to utilize Clinic services.

³ Additional small pet adoption fees in 2013 & 2014 is based upon an average of 175 small pet and rabbit adoptions annually. This fee was last changed over 20 years ago. The proposed fees are comparable to fees charged by other local humane societies. This nominal increase in the price of adopting a small animal should have a minimal effect on potential adopters.

⁴ Additional revenue from live animal trapping permit fees in 2013 & 2014 is based upon an average of 50 traps approved annually. This is a new fee and we are not aware of another local municipality charging for this service. The proposed fee of \$100.00 is based on an average of 3-4 hours of an Officer's time spent in investigating a need for a trap, setting the trap and picking up trapped cats from the property owner. Although it unknown, the new fee may act as disincentive for homeowner's to trap nuisance cats.

Anticipated Total Revenue from Entire Program, Including Changes Resulting from this Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Revenue Source	Total 2013 Revenue	Total 2014 Revenue
Seattle Animal Shelter subfund of the Department of Finance and Administrative Services subfund 50355	Surgery Fees Per SMC 9.26.060	\$207,500	\$207,500
	Administrative Fees Per SMC 9.26.050	\$32,500	\$32,500
	Small Pet Adoption Fees Per SMC 9.26.050	\$10,500	\$10,500
TOTAL		\$250,500	\$250,500

Total Revenue Notes: Revenue from 2013 Surgery Fees will cover approximately 3,400 spays and neuters of dogs, cats and rabbits,

Other Implications:

- Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?
Yes. The legislation increases the services provided to taxpayers by providing sterilization services for rabbits and free roaming community cats. The legislation also sends a policy message that small animals other than dogs and cats have intrinsic value. While unknown, the proposed fee for trapping live animals make act as a disincentive for homeowners to trap nuisance cats.
- What is the financial cost of not implementing this legislation?
If the legislation is not implemented, the City will forego \$22,500 in annual revenue from sterilizations services for rabbits and free roaming community cats; \$3,000 in annual revenue from small pet adoption fees; and \$5,000 in annual revenue from live animal trapping permit fees.
- Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?
No

- d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives? There are no alternatives to this legislation that could achieve the same or similar results.
- e) Is the legislation subject to public hearing requirements?
No
- f) Other Issues:

Please list attachments to the fiscal note below:
N/A